

Court Denies JFK Photos To Garrison

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A judge of the Court of General Sessions refused yesterday to order the National Archives to release photographs taken at John F. Kennedy's autopsy to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, but gave Garrison two weeks to convince him the photos are needed.

The ruling of Judge Charles W. Halleck may mean the end of Garrison's case against retired businessman Clay Shaw, who was to go on trial Tuesday for conspiracy to murder President Kennedy.

James L. Alcock, an assistant to Garrison, said in New Orleans yesterday that "this case cannot be brought to trial" without the evidence sought from the Archives.

Alcock asked the Orleans Parish Criminal Court to postpone the trial indefinitely.

Shaw's attorneys said they would fight the continuance. Trial Judge Edward A. Hagerty Jr. said he will rule on the motion Monday.

Judge Halleck told Numa V. Bertel Jr., another assistant to Garrison, that he would not order the release of the photos unless he is convinced the request is "something more than a frivolous claim through some sensational pictures."

He said he would hear any testimony or read any affidavits Bertel could produce that would give "some showing" the photos would contradict the findings of the Warren Commission, as Bertel contended they would.

Bertel complained that would be tantamount to moving the trial out of New Orleans and into the D.C. Court of General Sessions.

"We cannot bring our wit-
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nesses to this court," he said. "It would be prejudicial to the state of Louisiana."

Garrison has been claiming for years that the findings of the Warren Commission were wrong and that the Federal Government has suppressed the truth.

The Warren Commission found that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired the shots that killed President Kennedy as he rode in a motorcade in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. Photographs and X-rays taken at his autopsy were given to the National Archives by members of the family in 1966, with the condition that no one but Fed-

eral investigators be allowed to see them for five years.

In the petition that resulted in yesterday's hearing, Alcock claimed there is "substantial evidence" that the autopsy photos will show Kennedy was struck by bullets fired from at least two directions, and from the front, contrary to the Commission findings.

But on Thursday, the Justice Department released an evaluation by four private physicians and an attorney who had examined the autopsy photos and X-rays. Their report substantiated the Warren report.

'Assertion' Outweighed

The credentials of the evaluators were so impressive, Judge Halleck said, that they outweighed the "assertion" in Alcock's petition.

"If you already have sub-

stantial evidence" about what the photos will show, he told Bertel, "let me hear some of it" to support the claim.

Bertel said he did not doubt the evaluators' honesty, but "the most important photo they didn't have. Many photos were not produced in the Archives. We want to know where they went."

The Government was represented by a battery of lawyers, headed by Joseph Hannon, chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's office here.

Hannon argued, unsuccessfully, that Halleck had no authority to hear the case in the first place, and that even if he could order the Archivist, Dr. James Rhoads, to go to New Orleans, he could not order him to take the pictures with him.